

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 OPIC-03 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 /067 W

----- 057451

R 151342Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1763

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 898

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: SOCIALIST MEETING

REF: LISBON 554 AND LISBON 710

SUMMARY: SOCIALISTS FINALLY HOLD RALLY. TURNOUT IMPRESSIVE
DESPITE RAIN. SOARES PRAISES PRESIDENT'S ELECTION SPEECH,
AND SALLIES FORTH INTO STREETS GISCARD-STYLE. END SUMMARY.

1. SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) HELD ITS TWICE POSTPONED RALLY (REFTELS)
ON FEB 14. THE PS FILLED THE CAMPO PEQUENO BULL RING IN
DOWNTOWN LISBON DESPITE NASTY WEATHER AND IN FACE OF A WELL-
PUBLICIZED POPULAR SONG FESTIVAL ON NATIONAL TV AT SAME TIME.

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2. PS SECRETARY-GENERAL MARIO SOARES CREATED FAVORABLE SENSATION IN LISBON MEDIA BY JOINING PS MILITANTS IN HANDING OUT PARTY PAMPHLETS IN DOWNTOWN LISBON PRIOR TO RALLY. (COMMENT: THIS TYPE OF GISCARD-LIKE PERSONAL TOUCH IS UNUSUAL IN PORTUGAL. SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE IT COULD BE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE IN THE COMING ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN.)

3. PARTY LEADERS MANUL ALEGRE, ALFREDO CARVALHO, SOTTOMAYOR CARDIA, LOPES CARDOSO, AND ARONS DE CARVALHO ALL SPOKE. MARIO SOARES WOULD UP RALLY WITH ADDRESS, MAKING THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

--PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES'S SPEECH WAS "EXTRAORDINARY" WITH ITS IMPORTANCE LYING IN THE FACT THAT IT ENSURED A REVOLUTION IN LIBERTY BY SETTING OF DATE FOR ELECTIONS AND IN ITS CALL FOR UNITY AMONG THE COALITION PARTIES AND THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM).

--PS WAS NOT ANTI-COMMUNIST, BUT WOULD NOT TOLERATE BEING ATTACKED BY COMMUNISTS. PS DID NOT WANT "FALSE" UNITY WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY.

--AFM SHOULD HAVE A SAY ABOUT THE COUNTRY, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE, AS THE "GUARANTOR OF PUBLIC LIBERTIES AND DEMOCRACY." HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY AND A FREE VOTE SHOULD BE ULTIMATE ARBITER.

--SECRETARY-GENERALS OF PARTIES SHOULD HAVE DEBATE ON TV.

--PS SHOULD SUPPORT EMERGENCY ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL PLAN.

--MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS SHOULD BE HELD IN THE CITIES AND TOWNS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON00898
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750056-0432
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750239/aaaabitr.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LISBON 554 AND LISBON 710
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOCIALIST MEETING
TAGS: PINT, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006